

Message Text

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H-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 OES-03 NASA-01 ACDA-05

OC-05 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01 /105 W

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R 261740Z MAR 75

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9681

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, IMCO

SUBJ: IMCO MARITIME SATELLITE CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 60222

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFFS MET WITH IMCO SEC GEN SRIVASTAVA, SAVELIEV, AND QUEGUINER MARCH 25 TO REVIEW POINTS REFTEL. SECRETARIAT, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING EUROPEAN/USSR VIEWS, EXHIBITED NO DISPOSITION TOWARD THREE BASIC COMMITTEES WE SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION. GOOD LIKELIHOOD OF ACCOMMODATING OUR WISH FOR SPOT ON STEERING COMMITTEE, IN SEC GEN'S VIEW, IS BY EXPANDING NUMBER OF VICE PRESIDENCIES. SECRETARIAT REFLECTED VIEW OF OTHER POE MEMBERS THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD ACCOMPLISH AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TOWARD COMPLETING AGREEMENT AND SECOND SESSION, AFTER PROBABLY 12 MONTHS, BE HELD TO PRODUCE FINAL ACT. END SUM

2. OUTCOME OF CONFERENCE: THERE GENERAL AGREEMENT IN SECRETARIAT THAT AGENDA ITEMS 10 AND 11 WILL NOT BE REACHED AT FIRST SESSION OF CONFERENCE; IN GENERAL, SECRETARIAT AGREES WITH SCENARIO SET OUT PARA 2 REFTEL.

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3. ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCE: AT OPENING OF DISCUSSION, SECGEN GAVE US COPY OF DOCUMENT MARSAT/CONF/6 (COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE) JUST PUBLISHED BY IMCO WHICH GIVES SECGEN'S SUGGESTIONS ON ORGANIZATION. HE PROPOSES THAT WORK BE DIVIDED INTO TWO STAGES: (A) CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF INMARSA SYSTEM (AGENDA ITEMS 6 AND 7), AND (B) AFTER DECISION ON ESTABLISHMENT AND OTHER MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE, CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES TO GIVE EFFECT TO THESE DECISIONS (AGENDA ITEMS 8 AND 9). IN THE FIRST STAGE, ONE COMMITTEE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO ADVISE THE PLENARY AS IT REACHES AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM AND BASIC PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE SYSTEM INCLUDING INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS. ACCORDING TO PROPOSED TIMETABLE, IN SECOND WEEK OF CONFERENCE (MAY 1), AFTER DECISION ON ESTABLISHING SYSTEM (AGENDA ITEM 7) TAKEN, COMMITTEE 11 WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND BEGIN WORK ON WORK PROGRAM, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO IMPLEMENT CONFERENCE DECISIONS. (CREDENTIALS, EDITORIAL AND STEERING COMMITTEES ALSO PROPOSED.) THE SECGEN THEREFORE RECOMMENDING THAT PLENARY ITSELF CONSIDER INSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES.

4. RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR THREE COMMITTEES AND OUR VIEW ON NEED TO REVIEW WORK OF POE ON TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL ISSUES AT CONFERENCE, INDICATED SECRETARIAT AND, PRESUMABLY, MOST POE MEMBERS HAD NOT SERIOUSLY INTENDED THAT SUCH ACTION BE TAKEN. INSTEAD, APPEARS THAT GENERAL VIEW IS TO ACCEPT POE WORK AND MAKE POLICY DECISIONS ON ALTERNATE COURSES IT PUTS FORWARD. THERE WAS A CLEAR RETICENCE ON PART OF SECGEN AND SAVELIEV TO GO INTO ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ISSUES IN ANY DETAIL SINCE "AT LEAST FIVE WEEKS" INSTEAD OF 2 1/2 WOULD BE REQUIRED AND "SINCE POE WORK HAD BEEN SO THOROUGH" LITTLE USEFUL COULD BE EXPECTED FROM FURTHER THAT CONFERENCE HAD RIGHT AND DUTY TO REVIEW ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL BASES OF POE WORK, SECGEN AGREED THAT SOME SUCH REVIEW COULD, OF COURSE, TAKE PLACE IN PLENARY IN DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO DECISION ON ITEM 7 OF AGENDA.

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5. US DELEGATE ON STEERING COMMITTEE: IN REGARD TO OUR PROPOSAL THAT CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES BE REPRESENTED ON STEERING COMMITTEE, SECGEN POINTED OUT USUAL UN PRACTICE IS TO INCLUDE ONLY CHAIRMEN. HE STRESSED THAT ANY CHANGE FROM USUAL PROCEDURES SUCH AS REMOVING ONE OF GEOGRAPHIC REPS FROM LIST OF VICE PRESIDENCIES TO ACCOMMODATE US DEL WOULD BE A NON-STARTER AND CAUSE OF POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH LDCS. ASSUMING THAT THREE

COMMITTEES WE SUPPORT WILL NOT BE AGREED, HE RECOMMENDED
BEST WAY TO HAVE US INCLUDED ON STEERING COMMITTEE IS BY
EXPANDING NUMBER OF VICE PRESIDENCIES ALONG LINES DESCRIB-
ED TO CAPTAIN ADAMS (LONDON 3172). HE FELT CERTAIN THERE
WOULD BE NO OPPOSITION TO SUCH A MOVE DESIGNED TO INCLUDE
US AND BOTH HE AND SAVELIEV SAID THEY WOULD BE PREPARED
TO LOBBY WITH OTHER DELS TO SEE THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD

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EXPANSION MIGHT ALSO GO FURTHER IF FRANCE, THE USSR,
JAPAN, ETC. FELT THEY ALSO SHOULD BE ON STEERING COMMITTEE
BUT SUCH A POSSIBILITY WOULD ALSO PRESENT NO PROBLEM.

6. HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING: THE HEADS OF DELS MEET-
ING IS SCHEDULED FOR ONE HOUR (10 TO 11 APRIL 23). THE
SECGEN AGREED MORE TIME MIGHT WELL BE USEFUL, BUT TO
CHANGE TIMES NOW OR, AS WE SUGGESTED, TO CALL HEADS OF
DELS MEETING FOR AFTERNOON APRIL 22 AT THIS LATE DATE
COULD RAISE QUESTIONS IN MINDS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS AND

NOT BE PRODUCTIVE. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, SECGEN AND SAVELIEV SUGGESTED HEADS OF DELS MEETING GO AS SCHEDULED, IT WILL BE FOLLOWED AT OPENING OF CONFERENCE BY WELCOMING SPEECH BY UK MINISTER, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, WHICH IS ASSUMED WILL BE AGREED (BILLINGTON), THEN RECESS CONFERENCE TO 2:30 PM AND DURING INTERVAL, IF NECESSARY, CONTINUE WITH HEADS OF DELS MEETING BEFORE PROCEEDING IN AFTERNOON SESSION TO ITEM 2 OF AGENDA.

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7. AGENDA: SECGEN AGREED WITH OUR VIEW ON HANDLING OF WOULD BE REACHED AT FIRST SESSION OF CONFERENCE BUT THAT SAME AGENDA WOULD BE RETAINED TO BE COMPLETED AT SECOND SESSION. IN THIS REGARD, BOTH HE AND SAVELIEV STRESSED THAT IT KNOWN THAT OTHER POE MEMBERS TACTICALLY DO NOT WISH TO CONSIDER A SECOND CONFERENCE, BUT RATHER AN ADDITIONAL SESSION OF THE PRESENT CONFERENCE. SAVELIEV SAID USSR AND OTHERS WISH TO COMPLETE WORK AT ONE CONFERENCE IF POSSIBLE. WHILE HE AGREED THIS NOT LIKELY, OTHER DELS CONSIDER THAT EARLY RAISING OF PROBABILITY THAT THERE WILL BE A SECOND CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE PRESSURE OFF DELEGATES TO MOVE QUICKLY TO COMPLETE AS MUCH WORK AS POSSIBLE AT APRIL 23-MAY 9 MEETING. IN ANY EVENT, OTHER POE MEMBERS PREFER TO REGARD A SECOND MEETING AS A SECOND SESSION CONTINUING WORK OF CONFERENCE.

8. OPENING STATEMENT: SECGEN SAW NO PROBLEM WITH OUR VIEWS ON THIS ITEM.

9. POE REPORT: SECGEN AND SAVELIEV CLEARLY CONSIDER THAT THREE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITH RESULTING WORK PROGRAM WE OTHER DELS ALTHOUGH THEY ACCEPT THAT THIS IS A POSSIBLE, THOUGH NOT EFFICIENT OR DESIRABLE, WAY FOR CONFERENCE TO WORK. AS NOTED ABOVE, VIEWS EXPRESSED BY SECGEN AND SAVELIEV (WHICH SEEM QUITE SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY UK AND OTHER POE MEMBERS) INDICATE THAT THEY EXPECT THERE WILL BE LITTLE SUPPORT FOR MEANINGFUL REVIEW OF ECONOMIC/ FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF POE REPORT BEFORE POINT AT WHICH DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH INMARSAT SYSTEM WILL BE MADE. SECGEN SAID POE WORK HAD BEEN THOROUGH, FIVE MEETINGS OF POE WERE HELD, ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS WERE SET FORTH ON SEVERAL ISSUES AND WORK OF CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE TO REDO THIS WORK, BUT TO TAKE DECISIONS BASED ON IT. EVEN IF THERE WERE ANY INCLINATION ON PART OF CONFERENCE DELS TO GO INTO POE TECHNICAL WORK IN DETAIL, THIS WOULD NOT LIKELY PRODUCE NEW FACTS AT THIS STAGE AND ONLY DELAY DECISION ON ESTABLISHING THE SYSTEM. AGAIN, THE SECGEN ARGUED THAT WHATEVER REVIEW OF POE WORK SOME DELS MIGHT CONSIDER NECESSARY COULD BE

ACCOMPLISHED IN PLENARY MEETINGS BEFORE REACHING ITEM 7.

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THAT ADOPTION OF FINAL ACTS AND SIGNATURE OF INSTRUMENTS
COULD TAKE PLACE AT APRIL 23-MAY 9 MEETINGS. DUE FULL
IMCO SCHEDULE, FURTHER SESSION TO COMPLETE WORK WOULD
NOT APPEAR POSSIBLE BEFORE FIRST HALF OF 1976. NONETHE-
LESS, IT CLEAR THAT IN SAVELIEV AND SECGEN'S VIEWS, LACK
OF TIME TO COMPLETE WORK AT ONE SESSION IS ONLY REASON
FOR DELAY RATHER THAN OUR VIEW THAT TIME IS NOT RIPE FOR
CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS.

11. COMMENT: SECGEN'S PROPOSAL ON HOW US COULD BE INCLUD-

ED ON STEERING COMMITTEE APPEARS USEFUL. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INSTRUCTING EMBASSIES IN OTHER POE CAPITALS TO SOLICIT SUPPORT OF DELEGATIONS FOR ADDING US TO LIST OF VICE PRESIDENCIES BASED ON US EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN SPACE COMMUNICATIONS. AS FOR CONFERENCE WORK PROGRAM, IT APPEARS THAT SECRETARIAT, WHOM WE EXPECT ARE REFLECTING VIEWS OF MAJOR POE MEMBERS, CONSIDERS THAT ONLY ISSUE BEFORE INMARSAT CONFERENCE IS TO MAKE POLICY DECISION ON ESTABLISHING SYSTEM BASED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXISTING POE WORK AND THEN TO SETTLE HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS AND HOW THE SYSTEM WILL BE ESTABLISHED, NOT IF IT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED; THAT APPEARS TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. THIS COULD QUITE LIKELY REQUIRE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS TO WORK OUT FINAL DRAFT OF AGREEMENT, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, OTHER LEGAL, DRAFTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS BUT APPARENTLY NOT ANY REWORK OF BASIC POE STUDIES. IF, AS SECRETARIAT NOW ESTIMATES, TOTAL PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCE WILL BE ONLY SOME 35 STATES, CHANCES TO FIND SUPPORT FOR OUR VIEWS WOULD APPEAR SEVERELY LIMITED SINCE 25 OF THAT 35 WILL NO DOUBT BE POE MEMBERS WHO ACCEPTED POE REPORT AND MAY BE PREPARED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO AGREE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF INMARSAT SYSTEM.

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